GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3921
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2002
PATENT OF DARJEELING TEA
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board of India has sent a proposal to the Union Government for patenting the popular Darjeeling tea as a brand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Tea Board of India has conducted a survey about the quality of tea-gardens of Darjeeling; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the survey?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b) : Darjeeling tea is a Geographical Indication, an intellectual property right which is different from a `patent` applicable for inventions. Darjeeling tea is registered as a Certification Trade Mark in India. The Darjeeling tea Logo is also registered in various countries including UK, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal, USA, Japan, Egypt and Canada.

(c) & (d) : Yes, sir. A Techno economic Survey on Darjeeling Tea Industry has been conducted by the Tea Board to look into the various problems of Darjeeling tea industry based on an on-the spot study of suitably selected sample gardens. The main problems identified are over-aged bushes, low productivity, declining profitability, lack of uprooting and replanting, top soil erosion, lack of adequate finance etc. The recommendations made in the Survey include extension planting & replanting, suitable infilling programmes, uprooting and replanting programme in low yielding estates, rejuvenation and consolidation with inter - row planting, judicious application of herbicides, adoption of latest R&D in field & cultural practices for qualitative upgradation and growth of production, upgradation of processing and packaging machinery, measures to enhance labour productivity, greater emphasis on essential field operations specially in small tea estates and improvement of basic infrastructural facilities.